

## **EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes March 1, 2005**

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield. Two Public Hearings were also held at that time to receive public comments on Ordinance No. 04-05-555 and Ordinance No. 04-05-556. The Public Hearings were held immediately following the reports.

#### **Members present:**

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman  
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman  
Norman Dorn, Councilman  
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman  
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

#### **Others present**

Wayne Adams, County Administrator  
John Byrd, Jr., County Attorney  
Barbara Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Rev. Jasper Lloyd gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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Councilman Bright made the motion to approve the February 1, 2005, Edgefield County Council Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kitchens and carried unanimously.

#### **Reports**

The Council reviewed the reports without comment.

#### **Public Hearings**

Council held Public Hearings on the following two ordinances to receive written and/or oral comments from the public.

**Ordinance No. 04-04-555, "An Ordinance Providing for the Conveyance of a Building and Land Parcel of Edgefield County to Edgefield County Churches Helping Others, a Charitable, Non-Profit Organization Serving the Needy Citizens of Edgefield County."**

**Ordinance No. 04-05-556, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 03-04-445, the FY 04-05 General Operating Budget Ordinance, to Provide for Three Additional Jailers in Order to Comply with Staffing Requirements of the South Carolina Department of Corrections."**

No comments were received.

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#### **Ordinances**

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve third and final reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-554, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Not Exceeding \$1,500,000 in Principal Amount of a Hospital Revenue Bond (The Edgefield County Hospital Project) of Edgefield County, South Carolina; Providing for the Form and Details of the Bond; Providing for the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Related Thereto." Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve third and final reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-555, "An Ordinance Providing for the Conveyance of a Building and Land Parcel of Edgefield County to Edgefield County Churches Helping Others, a Charitable, Non-Profit Organization Serving the Needy Citizens of Edgefield County." Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 04-05-556, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 03-04-445, the FY 04-05 General Operating Budget Ordinance, to Provide for Three Additional Jailers in Order to Comply with Staffing Requirements of the South Carolina Department of Corrections." Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Resolutions**

Mr. Rick Greene with the Upper Savannah Council of Governments was present concerning the Edgefield County Natural Hazards Risk Assessment & Mitigation Plan. Mr. Greene explained that the State and FEMA are requiring all counties to adopt this Plan in order to be eligible for funds that could become available in the event of a natural disaster. This Plan looks at some of the natural disasters that have occurred in the past in the county such as tornados, floods, etc. and project the possibility that these things could potentially happen again in the future. Some goals and needs are listed that the Emergency Management Office could use to help address these disasters should they occur in the county. If this plan is adopted it would make the county eligible for grant funding if there is a presidential declared disaster in the State of South Carolina. If a hurricane struck the coast they would take 10% of that total disaster declaration and make that available for anybody in the state that had adopted this Plan. It does not guarantee that you would get any money, it just means you could apply for it. Most of the counties in the state will be doing this. This has been approved by the State Emergency Management Office and also by FEMA. As soon as you consider passing a resolution for it the county will be eligible to apply for the funds in the future.

After Mr. Greene addressed County Council concerning the Mitigation Plan, Councilman Bright made the motion to approve Resolution No. 04-05-276, "A Resolution Adopting

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The Edgefield County Hazard Mitigation Plan.” Councilman Hudson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Rick has also been working with Mike Casey, Emergency Management.

### **New Business**

Chairman Kneece stated that Howard Gibson asked to bring before Council Highland Avenue Ext. Although this was not an agenda item for this meeting, Mrs. Gloria Bynum has addressed Council on this issue previously, and has attended Transportation Meetings concerning this matter.

Mrs. Bynum stated this started with a letter to the Edgefield Town Council and the letter was sent to County Council. County Council sent her to the Transportation Committee in reference to maintaining Highland Avenue Ext. If it is permissible, rather than having the road paved, if it could just be graveled or have sand put on it until it could be paved this would improve the road. We do need something done desperately. As mentioned before, we have had the road crowned and graveled three times. It is not in a bad situation but when it rains there are puddles. We would like for the council to consider maintaining the road.

The Chairman asked to hear from Howard Gibson. Mr. Gibson agreed that the road has been maintained very nicely. Mrs. Bynum did come before the Transportation Committee and they did vote to allocate funds for maintenance if council did decide to accept it, but it was with the stipulation that it goes on our regular paving list and it would not be put forward. Right now we range from two to eighty eight on our points system. The higher the number the faster it gets on the paving list, and hers runs around a ten as far as where it falls on the paving list. It does not get put ahead on the paving list; a lot of the time people have that misconception. Mrs. Bynum and all of the property owners are aware of that. When Mrs. Bynum came before Council earlier we were not sure there was right-of-way, but there is. It was done when the road was cut in. Mr. Bright asked the question the last time, which Mr. Gibson stated he did not know at the time, how this happened (right-of-way). It was because the road is in the town limits of Edgefield. We had no control over how the road was done. There is maybe only one lot out in the county but the road goes from the town out into the county and it dead ends. The Transportation Committee did vote to fund just for maintenance.

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to accept Highland Avenue Ext. into the county maintenance system. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kneece referred to the next item of the need for a traffic light at intersection of Bettis Academy Road and Highway 25, stating that this is a state road. He asked Howard Gibson how this could be handled and Mr. Gibson said probably the same as the guard

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rails and resurfacing. The state will say it is fine if the "C" Funds will pay for it. If Council votes to pursue it then he will contact the right source. No doubt they will ask for "C" funds and I will take to the Transportation Committee. This is not on the list for matching programs at the present, as far as being earmarked for it, but Howard will check to see if there are any funds available, or if they will be willing to go along with it. Matching funds were paid on the turning lanes at that site. "C" funds funded most of the widening and resurfacing of Bettis Academy Road. Howard said he would talk with the state engineer concerning the procedure and see what can be worked out. But, he feels the "C" fund will have not problem with funding the traffic light because they realize how dangerous the intersection is.

It was agreeable with those in attendance concerning this issue, that Howard Gibson would get more information and keep the group informed as to the progress being made.

Councilman Dorn spoke concerning a request from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church to purchase county property adjacent to the Church to expand their cemetery. These properties are located on Highway 25 North of Edgefield (old county stockade). Mr. Dorn stated that he wanted to make sure that all of the necessary information is obtained before a decision is made. We want to be sure that council has given all information of the process and ability to purchase the land.

At this time Rev. Dukes addressed council. "We approached County Council sometime ago about purchasing some of the land where the old chain gang camp is located. Since that time the county has had someone go out and survey the land. When we approached you all initially concerning the land, we were in hopes we could get some of the frontage property but, of course, based on the survey that the county had done, there is no frontage property within this survey. In fact it goes behind the old chain gang camp building and after we actually looked at the land we determined that only one of the two acres surveyed would be suitable for burial because there is a large drop-off. Based on the appraisal price that has been given (\$7,500) we felt that since only one acre is suitable for burial due to the drop-off we figure it is only worth half of the appraisal. We want to ask why none of the frontage property was in that survey.

The Chairman said that after several of them looked at the property, because there are some graves down the road from that frontage acreage, it was decided to let the church buy the land behind that and leave the other the way it is.

Rev. Dukes stated that from where the Pleasant Grove property presently stops, and there is a roadbed that the church is leasing through the county at the present time, but where our property is adjacent to the county property there is a long distance between that point and where the graves are. When it was surveyed they actually went behind the building and there was a lot of frontage property way before you get to the grave sites.

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The Chairman stated that at that time the county did not want to get rid of the highway frontage. The highway frontage is worth much more money. Mr. Bright brought up that it had been discussed at one point of having a dog pound there. Mr. Kneece suggested that the church take the two acres at a reduced price.

Rev. Dukes again stated they would certainly like to have some of the frontage property, but if that cannot be obtained, then if they were to purchase the two acres that have been surveyed, they would certainly like to get it at a reduced rate because as it was just stated, the frontage property is more valuable than the back property. Of the frontage acreage, Rev. Dukes suggested obtaining at least 208 feet. If not 208 feet, at least about 150 feet.

Councilman Dorn made a motion that in case you (Rev. Dukes) are granted what you ask for, we include the lease we have already given you because I don't think it would have much to do a great amount or a less amount that you already use for the backside grave – I assume that is what we are talking about – if we already have it leased to you, if we are able to work out something then I want that included as well as not being a part of the package. Councilman Kitchens: “Are you saying the road is not to be included?” Mr. Dorn: “Yes, to be included but not at a price because we are only talking about maybe eight or nine feet wide. Is that in the same general area that you are speaking of?” Rev. Dukes: “That is correct.”

Councilman Dorn made another motion. If necessary, concerning finances, we will see if we can work out some kind of plan for the amount that you purchase in a certain amount of time rather than coming up with the entire money now.

Mr. Kneece: “Let's clarify this a little whether you want a narrow width and a long depth, because if you pick out a part in the front then you are going to come around and the property will be chopped up in the front. Maybe 100 ft. frontage and 200 ft. back. Wouldn't that work just as well?” Rev. Dukes: “The reason why I said probably some 150 odd feet because measuring it off I believe you have maybe 175 feet before you get to the building (from our land to the building).” Kneece: “What about from the highway back to the drop-off point? In other words, instead of making it square, make it oblong and narrow front and go all the way back and that would not be taking up all of the highway frontage. You would be taking up maybe a 100 feet of frontage and going back to the drop-off point.” Dukes: “I think that if you do that (100 ft.) it is a possibility that you would run into the building. I believe that it is about 175 feet between our property and the building.” Kneece: “What I was trying to get to is that instead of it being squared off and coming back behind, have a straight parcel. Instead of chopping it up you would have a narrow front and along the side to go all the way down your property.” Mr. Dorn asked Rev. Dukes if that would be what he wanted?” “I think we could work with that.”

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“So, the only thing we need now is what will the charge be,”-Mr. Dorn. Rev. Dukes: “Exactly. We certainly feel uncomfortable with the price of what was surveyed.” Mr. Kneece said that if it is surveyed the other way you would have a better piece of property. You wouldn’t have any drop-off land – you would have more or less a level piece of property.” Rev. Dukes: “I understand what you are saying but even having said that don’t make us pay through our nose for that.” “No, as far as price I am not negotiating price – this board can do that.”

At this time Mr. Kneece asked the Administrator how will this do with us selling county property? Mr. Adams said that what has to be done is to get a plat of how you want it conveyed, have a market appraisal done (two or three and average them). Then you have to have an ordinance and a public hearing to convey the property. As Mr. Kneece said, the county cannot just up and sell county property to an individual.

The matter of resuming the county policy of scraping non-county roads for a fee was brought before council. Mr. Adams said there are some roads that would be problematic to take into the system. Some of those have problems with utilities buried within the roadbed itself, or we have a problem getting right-of-way. Yet, we have citizens who live there that want to have the road improved so that it is passable. In order to keep from there being a connection of ownership to the county a fee would be necessary. When we have had this in the past it has been nominal. But I would suggest that if we resume that policy that we charge actual time and materials that go into improving that road. Mr. Adams asked Howard Gibson for an estimate of what it cost the county to scrape a mile of road and it is \$125.00 per hour. Mr. Gibson told Council that as far as getting into hauling gravel and things of that nature, that should be avoided completely. At the present “C” fund pays for all gravel for the county, so either the county would have to get back into buying gravel or the property owner could get someone to haul gravel. Finding someone with a motor grader is very difficult in Edgefield County. “C” funds cannot sell anything that it purchases so providing the gravel is out. Mr. Kneece clarified, \$125.00 per hour plus any material used. The request would be put on the regular schedule of when the road crew is in that area. Travel time would have to be charged if the scraping is to be done when the request is received. The owner would have to be responsible for marking the utilities and they would hold the county harmless for any damages. Mr. Adams will draft this into a written resolution-all of the conditions and terms. Councilman Bright made the motion to accept this as information. Seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried.

Consideration of bids for a transfer switch and safety screen for EMS was explained by Howard Gibson. This comes under the Homeland Security Grant as a joint effort with Emergency Management and EMS – federal funds. The Transfer Switch is in preparation to get ready for a generator when we are down. It is the electrical part with automatic

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switch on and switch off. When EMS receives funds for the generator it is a matter of connection. This grant covers the purchase. You will notice a big difference in the bids. J&T Service Center's specs were used to write the bid package. Those specs were given to Mike Casey two years ago. Mr. Gibson stated he spoke with the other two bidders to be sure their figures were correct. They went through again and turn in verification that they were bidding on the same thing. The difference in price between Brad Hammond and Electrical Services is probably because Electrical Services is a dealer and gets his materials much cheaper.

Mike Casey stated that he does business with J & T at the radio station with his generators. He feels that J & T bidded themselves out purposely because they have other jobs. They have jobs in South America. They provide generator service in the southeast for telephone companies.

The three bids received for the transfer switch were:

<b>J &amp; T Service Center.....</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
<b>Brad Hammond.....</b>	<b>\$ 4,150</b>
<b>Electrical Services.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,052</b>

Councilman Bright made the motion to accept the bid of \$2,052 submitted by Electrical Services for the transfer switch. Councilman Dorn seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The safety screen is also under the Homeland Security Grant. This is called an ultra safety and security film. This would be security for our emergency personnel should there be severe winds such as a tornado, etc. – it would keep windows from blowing out. A window will withstand 130 mile an hour blast. It goes on the inside and also protects from breaking and entering. This was sent to six different companies and Coastal Applied Systems was the only company that responded. Their bid is \$2,131. There is no local company that does this.

Mike Casey explained the matter further. These Hazard Mitigation Grants come through FEMA. Of course the Edgefield Fire Department had to be designated as an alternate in case the 911 emergency operations center, council chambers and the sheriff's office go down. We designated the EMS headquarters as an alternate EMC so it could qualify for additional scoring points in order to get the grant. This is a 75-25 grant. The county is not bearing the full responsibility of these figures. This is FEMA funding. This goes with what Rick is doing, for us to get these future grants the money (upgrading we got for the chambers) was 100% money. For us to continue to qualify for federal grants such as Homeland Security money, special mitigation grants, left-over money that other counties don't want that goes back into the pot, and we get it, we have to have what Rick has

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taken care of from that standpoint. By designating the EMS building, as an alternate back-up facility we were able to qualify for this grant. The film will go on all of the windows at the EMS building, because when we have tornados, hurricanes, snow, any type of natural/or man made disaster, EMS pulls its people into the headquarters building in Edgefield and at the sub-station in the Merriwether section. The main station here in Edgefield is the key point. At this time, it does not have any generator power whatsoever, This will pay for pre-wiring, the transfer switch and the protective film. That is so if a tree limb is blowing at fifty or sixty miles an hour when a storm comes through and it hits the glass, it won't break the glass, come in and possibly injure someone. The transfer switch is the key to getting the generator on line when the power is failing. The film is recommended by FEMA and is a part of the grant. They recommend that any emergency building have this – the Edgefield Fire Department is doing the same thing. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve the bid of \$2,131 submitted by Coastal Applied Systems for the Safety Screen. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Guests**

The Chairman recognized the guests that had signed to speak.

Johnny Anderson (Plane Fun) was present but he and Mr. Kneece agreed that his questions had been answered.

Mr. Kneece asked Ms. Louise Williams (traffic light at Bettis Academy and Hwy 25) if she wished to speak. She just wanted to know when they would be out to begin work. As Mr. Kneece said that is dealing with the State and will take some time. Mr. Gibson will keep her informed on what progress is being made.

Rev. Jasper Lloyd, whose name was on the guest list, did not wish to speak.

Councilman Dorn recognized Rev. Weaver and his wife, and stated that he had spoken with Mrs. Weaver earlier and she would be willing to work with the Library Board. Mr. Dorn was asking that she be considered as a board member.

Mike Casey asked to speak. "We have talked about grants and funding and a number of operations going on in the county through Emergency Preparedness (Services). I spent two days in Aiken with the rail derailment as part of the support group for Aiken County. The first afternoon after the derailment that morning I went down into the immediate area of the derailment. I saw things that only in the past I had seen in the way of movies. I saw in real life what a man made disaster can do. Two things that saved the death count from being any higher than nine, was first of all the derailment was at 2:30 in the morning so the majority of folks in that area were sheltered in place, and secondly which dovetails



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with what we talked about tonight, Aiken County had a tremendous amount of grant money they had used. They have what they call a cobra team, which is a regional team that had hazard mitigation suits (big space suits and many other things). For the most part, all of that was 100% funding. Had it not been for those two items the death count could have easily been in the 100's had it been in the middle of the day. That is one reason why, whenever I can work with Howard, EMS, or the fire departments, etc., I want to work with them to secure as many grant dollars as we can get. In the last few years we have probably juggled a half million dollars – all 100%. It is specific as to what it can be used for and, more importantly, what it cannot be used for. So, when we come in and request to buy a transfer switch or any item, it is because it is specifically spelled out. My point is that grant dollars do come into the picture and play heavily. The armored car that we fixed up was used in Aiken during the derailment. We were the first out of county response team and command vehicle to go into Aiken County. Merriwether Fire Department was there and our ambulance service at 3:00 in the morning. At one time there was serious consideration that I would have to evacuate part of Edgefield County because the chlorine gas was drifting across the interstate into Edgefield County. It takes two breaths of chlorine gas to kill you. I have met with the school system on updating their hazard plan. Rather than evacuating they would shelter in-place. I just wanted Council to know that the grant dollars play a great deal in what we can do. One Hundred percent grant dollars made this EOC – complete two-way radio, including the plasma TV screens. We will never have all of the resources of Aiken County but we have a mutual aid agreement with them.

Councilman Kitchens thanked Mike for everything he has done over the years, and Mike emphasized that he surrounds himself with good people.

**No executive session.**

**Claims approved as follows:**

<b>A.</b>	<b>PAYROLL:</b>	<b>1/31/05 thru 2/13/05</b>
	Regular.....	\$167,621.98
<b>B.</b>	<b>PAYROLL:</b>	<b>2/14/05 thru 2/7/05</b>
	Regular.....	\$168,875.87
	<b>General Operating.....</b>	<b>\$427,224.58</b>

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There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2005.

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C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

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Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

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Norman Dorn, Councilman

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Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
B. Everette Kitchens, Council

ATTEST

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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council